

# ♦The Lamoine Quarterly♦

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January 2022

## Select Board Asks For Spending Authority

(Lamoine) - A special town meeting on January 6, 2022 will ask voters in attendance to allow the Select Board to spend funds received under the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) in a manner consistent with the federal government's guidelines. The town has received just under \$90,000 thus far and expects the same amount during 2022.

Spending is limited to broadband expansion, water and sewer projects, and premium pay for essential workers during the COVID-19 pandemic emergency declaration. That period ran from March 2020 through June 2021. The town meeting will take place at the Lamoine Town Hall at 7PM prior to the regular Select Board meeting that evening.

The Select Board has made no final decision on exactly how to spend the money. They asked Administrative Assistant Stu Marckoon to propose a plan.

The initial draft of the proposal would set aside most of the funding for broadband expansion. Charter Communications has proposed wiring up the unserved areas of the town with a local share of \$220,000. That exceeds the amount available from the federal funding.

The Hancock County Commissioners have indicated they wish to assist with such projects, but have not yet committed an amount to Lamoine's project.

The draft also includes money for premium payments to volunteer firefighters and town staff that deals directly with the public. The County Commissioners say they will match up to \$30,000 in such pay.

The final part of the draft plan would set aside funding for a water tank and pump between the school and fire station to supply higher volumes of water in order to re-fill fire trucks.

## Deadline Soon for Town Meeting Ballot

(Lamoine) - The annual town meeting election is set for March 8, 2022, and candidates who wish to have their name on the ballot have until the end of the day on January 7, 2022 to get their nominating petitions to Town Clerk Jennifer Kovacs-Lord.

Two positions on the Select Board and two on the School Committee will be selected, as well as one member of the Board of Assessors. Currently holding office are Select Board members Bob Christie and Kathleen Rybarz, School Committee members Brett Jones and Bob Pulver, and Assessor Jane Fowler.

To appear on the ballot, candidates must collect signatures from at least 25 registered Lamoine voters. Candidates can pick up nominating petitions during regular office hours at the Lamoine Town Hall. It is suggested that more than 25 signatures be gathered in case a signer is not a registered voter.

Several non-incumbents have picked up petitions prior to press time, as well as some of the incumbent elected officials. This may be the last year to vote for an Assessor. (See article on page 3).

## Officials Say Town Needs More Space

(Lamoine) - As the town shows continued steady growth over the past few decades, town staff has advised the Select Board that one of the biggest needs of the community is more space. Staff and volunteer board/commission chairs met with the Select Board in early November to discuss how things are going and to give the Municipal Officers an idea of what capital needs are coming up in the next ten years.

Superintendent of Schools Katrina Kane said the school department has been working for the past few years with Oak Point Associates on how to address those space needs at the Lamoine Consolidated School campus. Mrs. Kane said one of the goals is to create a community center within the facility. The main school building is now 48 years old. The gymnasium has no space for spectators to watch a basketball game, and limited public meeting space. Others at the meeting pointed out that parking at the roughly 10-acre lot is also limited, and when the school holds a major event, vehicles frequently have to find space off site for people to attend, including adjacent to Lamoine Beach Road, creating very cramped conditions. The school and fire station share the same lot.

The school campus is also home to three "portable" classrooms, two in back of the main building, and one in front, adjacent to the fire station. A fourth portable building is being considered by the School Committee.

Fire Chief Skip Smith shared the space concern. He noted that the room over the lower level office space is not designed for public meeting or access. The department members use that room for weekly meetings and training. He told the Select Board that he would like to add a single story addition to the school side of the fire house to accommodate offices, restrooms and meeting space.

Administrative Assistant Stu Marckoon told the board that the current town hall has some major space issues as well, and that presents a safety hazard on Election Days. He said parking is very limited, and cars line Douglas Highway when they cannot pull into the few parking spaces at the building. He said record storage is also limited by the size of the vault. Code Enforcement Officer Rebecca Albright, who works in an addition built in the late 1980s, says she really would like a window in that office.

A few years ago the town embarked on exploring the possibility of a community center. The COVID-19 pandemic struck, and the committee that formed to discuss that has been dormant since. Much of the meetings focused on space needs and available land options.

Planning Board Chair John Holt offered up that perhaps the town ought to approach the issue from the standpoint of "what happens if you do nothing".

## Boston Post Cane Goes to Betty Adams

(Lamoine) - The town lost its only centenarian on October 19, 2021 when Walker Road resident June Davis died peacefully at her home. Mrs. Davis was 101 years old, and her family returned the long-standing symbol awarded to the oldest resident of the town that day; the Boston Post Cane. A quick search of town records determined that Falcon Lane resident Betty Adams is the new cane recipient. Mrs. Adams is 97-years old, just 19-days older than Almond "Buddy" Eaton of Douglas Highway. The Board had sent birthday greetings to Mr. Eaton earlier in the month.

The Select Board signed a resolve and Mrs. Adams' son brought her to their meeting on October 21st to receive the cane. She delighted the board telling how she grew up in Hermon and became a school teacher after attending the Farmington Normal School (now the University of Maine at Farmington). She is an avid fan of the Boston Red Sox. She and her husband Bruce came to Lamoine after retirement, moving from the New Jersey area, building at the end of Eagle Point.



Select Board chair Gary McFarland (left) presents the Boston Post Cane to Lamoine oldest resident, Betty Adams at the Board's meeting on October 21, 2021

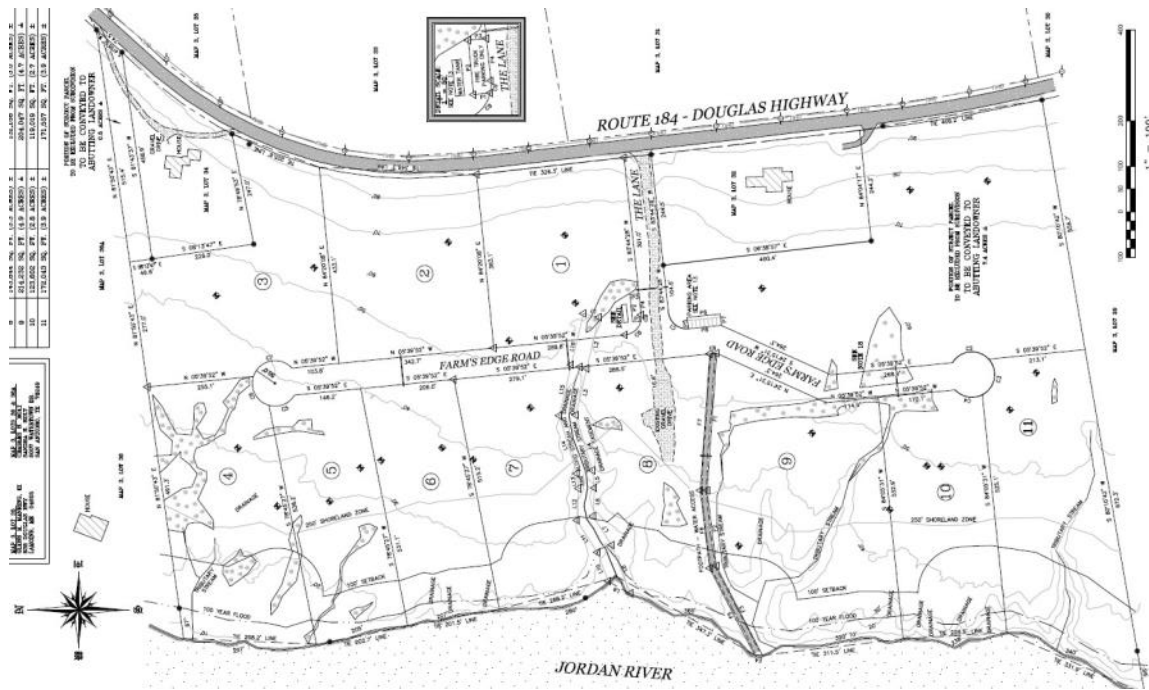


## Planning Board Conditionally Approves Jordan River Subdivision

(Lamoine) - For the first time in more than a decade, the Planning Board has approved a new subdivision. A few conditions have to be met before the board signs off on the lot divisions. Maine Woodland Properties purchased seven lots owned by the children of the late Ralph Miro, and will redraw the lot lines to turn the parcel into an 11-lot subdivision. The major condition to be met is the sale of remaining acreage to an abutting landowner. The developer will also have to install a 10,000 fire tank and hydrant system. The Lamoine Volunteer Fire Department will purchase the tank once MWP submits a check for

that purchase. The company that will build the two subdivision roads will install the tank.

One of the features of the new subdivision is a parking area and a footpath to the shore of Jordan River. Marine worm harvesters have traditionally used the land as a path to the shore to ply their trade, parking on the other side of Douglas Highway and walking through the fields. The new route to the shore should be more convenient for the harvesters, and a lot safer than traversing Route 184 at low tide, sometimes in the dark of night. It's not clear when construction will start.



Part of the subdivision plan submitted by Maine Woodland Properties. The developer has named the plan "Jordan Shores". Two roads will serve the 11 lots.

## Building Projects Heat Up During Fall

(Lamoine) - New building activity picked up a bit during the fall of 2021. Code Enforcement Officer Rebecca Albright issued 11 building permits for the quarter, including three for new residences as follow:

Nbr	Name	Project
41	Morton, Elaine	Access Walk
42	Stuart, John	Deck Replace
43	Carter, A&K	Residence
44	Murphy, Shawn	Residence
45	Sprague, Kevin	Decks
46	Commoli, E&B	Camp Replace
47	Jordan, Mildred	Shed
48	Lawser, Jeannine	Deck
49	Wellman, Susan	Sign
50	Sands, Joanna	Gen. Pad
51	Dennison, David	Residence
52	St. Clair, Tom	Shed

In addition to the building and Shoreland permits, Albright issued six permits for new septic systems, one replacement septic field, one for a primitive toilet, and two internal plumbing permits for homes under construction.

Ms. Albright is in the office on Monday and Thursday late mornings, and available for appointments by calling the town hall.

## State DEP to Assist on Shoreland Permit Applications

(Lamoine) - Maine's Department of Environmental Protection has asked to be put in the loop on Shoreland zoning applications that involve non-conforming structures. In a letter received in late November, DEP Shoreland Zoning Coordinator Colin Clark said they offer the assistance to a number of municipalities, as the application process for such projects is extremely complex. During the last few years, the town has received a few applications to enlarge or replace existing structures that are too close to the high water mark. Generally, the Planning Board has to make a determination that the project cannot be made conforming before any permit can be issued, but a lot of information is needed prior to making that determination.

## Complaint Resolved

(Lamoine) - A complaint about a 2nd recreational vehicle used sporadically for a summer dwelling on a Bay Road lot has apparently been resolved. CEO Rebecca Albright reports the RV is apparently no longer on the lot. A 2nd dwelling unit would require an additional 40,000 square feet and a septic system. The initial RV on the lot is located outside of the Shoreland Zone.

## Town Meeting Swiftly Approves Cell Tower Easement Sale

(Lamoine) - Voters in October authorized the Selectboard to sell a permanent easement to an acre of land adjacent to the former landfill to American Tower Company. The land houses a cell phone tower that currently serves Verizon Wireless and will likely extend 20-feet higher to accommodate a 2nd antenna array from AT&T.

Years ago the town entered a land lease agreement with Verizon Wireless, and an escalating lease payment comes every month with that agreement. The easement will end the perpetual lease, and over the next 10-years, the town will receive \$1,921.71 monthly, for a total of \$230,604.81. After 10-years the monthly payments will end.

The town has enjoyed pretty good cell phone coverage since the agreement began in 2009 or so, and that coverage is likely to improve with the addition of the second carrier. A construction date for AT&T has not yet been set.

## Planning Board Has No Issues Pending

(Lamoine) - Lamoine's Planning Board has two basic functions—reviewing select permit applications and ordinance development. After presenting several ordinance updates at the 2021 town meeting last spring, and processing a subdivision and gravel application this past fall, the "in box" for the Planning Board is empty. No ordinance changes are in the works at this time.

For the first time in recent years, the Planning Board opted not to meet in December, as there was nothing to consider. The meeting for January is canceled as well, due to a lack of action items. The Planning Board awaits some of the conditional items associated with the Jordan Shores Subdivision (see article above, left) It will also discuss restoration of a portion of the Kittredge Pit by Harold MacQuinn, Inc that was due to take place during 2021, but has not yet been completed. The Code Enforcement Officer has issued a notice of violation for the lack of restoration. The conversation will take place in February.

## Appeals Board to Meet January 10

(Lamoine) - The Board of Appeals has not met in some time as there have been no active appeals or variance applications before the town. The Board will meet on Monday, January 10, 2022 at 6:30 PM at the Town Hall. On the agenda will be selection of the board officers, discussion of whether to start the process of adopting a remote participation policy, and development of an Appeals Ordinance. The Ordinance has been discussed for years, with the goal being a common appeal process to cover all applicable town ordinances.

## Elected Assessing Board May Terminate

(Lamoine) - Lamoine is one of the few towns in Maine that has an elected Board of Assessors separate from the Selectboard, and that may come to an end in April, 2023. The current Assessors, Jane Fowler, Terry Towne and Brian Thomas have served together as a board for many years, and for some of the past few elections, no names have appeared on the ballot for the position. This coming March Mrs. Fowler's position is on the ballot.

The Board of Assessors wrote to the Selectboard during the fall indicating that they would continue until the revaluation is complete in April 2023 (see related article below), and then would cease as the assessing body for the town, most likely when the new fiscal year begins in July 2024. The plan is to replace the elected board with a hired assessor at that time who would visit the town monthly to catch up with the work on updating property tax records and dealing with issues as they come up. That hired

assessor would have much of the same decision making authority as the current elected board, including decisions on tax abatement requests and issuance of supplemental taxes when necessary.

In its letter to the Selectboard, the Assessors said that it's apparent that the current structure is unsustainable in the future.

To accomplish this change requires a vote by the town meeting to change the town's ordinance that provides for the elected board. It's anticipated the question could go before the town in November 2022 simultaneous with the Gubernatorial and mid-term Congressional election. That should ensure that enough voters turn out to meet state law on making such a change. State law requires that at least 10% of the voters in the previous Gubernatorial election must cast ballots to make a change in the assessing structure, and that the change come at least 90-days prior to the next annual town meeting. More discussion is likely.

## Municipal Budget Proposed for 2022/23

(Lamoine) - Lamoine's Budget Committee has proposed municipal budget that is less than 1% higher than the current (2021/22) fiscal year. The expenditures do not include the school and county budgets which have not yet been proposed.

The municipal part of the proposed budget is \$8,880.15 higher than the current year. However, the amount of property tax needed to fund the budget will increase by \$112,726.07, as projected available revenues are lower by \$103,845.91. The main reason for that is use of the revaluation fund. The town had used \$110,000 from that fund in the current fiscal year to offset the property tax impact.

The largest budget increase is for waste disposal. The proposed \$176,800

budget has increased by \$24,150.00. Nearly half of the increase is to cover increased tonnage sent to the PERC incinerator in Orrington. Shipments from the transfer station were up about 10% during the current fiscal year.

The Administration budget is up \$7,224.61, mainly due to salary increases. The public safety budget is up \$5,932.55, with much of that attributed to fire truck maintenance.

Decreases are proposed in the road paving, social and cultural services, parks, recreation & cemeteries, and capital projects.

The budget will be voted upon at the annual town meeting on March 16, 2022 at the school. The school budget will likely go before voters sometime in May.

## Annual Town Meeting Preview- March 2022

(Lamoine) - Lamoine's annual open Town Meeting is set for Wednesday, March 16, 2022 at 6PM at the Lamoine Consolidated School Gym. This year's town meeting is not expected to have many non-budget issues to discuss, as no ordinance changes are proposed.

The meeting will have a new moderator this year, as Harvey Kelley retired after the meeting in 2021. Coley Cove Road resident Maurice "Joe" Marshall has agreed to moderate the meeting. He has a good amount of experience as a meeting moderator in Southwest Harbor and has led some special town meetings in the past when Mr. Kelley was not available.

The Selectboard will begin working on the annual meeting warrant in January, likely signing the document on January 20th. The Board has agreed to include an article to see if the town wishes to seek intervenor status on a permit submitted by a Norwegian company to place a salmon farm operation in Frenchman Bay.

## Robin Veysey Retires from Budget Committee

(Lamoine) - Even Robin Veysey was surprised to learn that her tenure on Lamoine's Budget Committee had been 20-years. Mrs. Veysey had informed town officials of her desire to retire in 2020, but no one stepped up until late 2021 to fill her pending vacancy. Robin finished the budget "season" on December 13, 2021 with the recommendations on the 2022/23 municipal budget, and ends her service as of December 31st. Filling out the remainder of her term will be Pasture Way resident Jeffrey Cosulich, who also serves on the Lamoine Parks Commission, and agreed to fill an opening on the Technology Committee. Her fellow budget committee members applauded as chair Merle Bragdon presented a certificate of excellence to Robin at her final meeting.

In addition to appointing Cosulich to the two openings, the Selectboard also appointed Kristy Overlock of South Road as an alternate member of the Technology Committee. She works for the web service arm of the Ellsworth American.

## Revaluation Contract Signed

(Lamoine) - Following a bid process that attracted only two offers, the town has entered a contract with RJD Appraisal to conduct a revaluation of the town's assessment during 2022. The bid was for \$132,000. That was slightly more than budgeted initially and will require about \$23,000 from the 2022/23 budget. The town had set aside \$110,000 during the 2021/22 budget which had been sitting in a revaluation fund that was started following the last full revaluation in the 1990s. The town is well familiar with RJD; they conducted the last revaluation in 1993 and work closely with the Board of Assessors on appraising new buildings and keeping the tax maps updated.

As noted in the October 2021 edition of *The Lamoine Quarterly*, property values are badly out of line with current real estate selling prices. The state's valuation of town shows that assessed values are significantly lower than the state's total value placed on Lamoine. Because of this, the town has been forced to lower personal property values to the assessment ratio. Property owners who qualify for homestead, veteran and other exemptions also had those exemption amounts lowered by the ratio as required by law.

It's not clear yet when the crew from RJD will begin its work.

## Election Turnout Strong in November

(Lamoine) - For an election that consisted solely of three referendum questions, a lot of voters turned out to cast ballots on November 2, 2021. A question designed to halt construction on a major power transmission line in Western Maine likely drew the impressive voter turnout. The other questions raised money for a state transportation bond and amended the Maine Constitution granting citizens a right to food. All three questions passed, both statewide and in town.

In all, 705 registered voters in Lamoine cast ballots, a turnout of nearly 44%. Two years ago only 17% of Lamoine voters bothered to show up to cast a ballot in the statewide non candidate election. And the town meeting vote in March 2021 saw only a 9% turnout to select municipal officers.

## Annual Audit Delayed

(Lamoine) - Auditors from James Wadman CPA report the 2020/21 fiscal year audit may be delayed. Account Ron Bean reports the school department audit work is scheduled for January 2022, once the business office is through with the Ellsworth School Department audit. The City of Ellsworth has transitioned to a new auditing firm recently, which has the potential to slow down the tedious accounting work.

Bean said they hope to be able to come up with the final figures in time for the town report and annual meeting.



## It's Now "Selectboard" and "Overseers" - Board Name Changed by Legislature

(Lamoine) - In reading articles on previous pages in the *Lamoine Quarterly*, you might have noticed that the term Selectboard is now being used instead of Board of Selectmen. The reference is intentional following action by the Maine Legislature that took effect in the fall of 2021. State statutes officially changed the terms used for a town's elected boards from (individually) "Selectmen" to "Municipal Officers" and the board collectively to simply "Selectboard". The elected officers were also previously called the "Overseers of the Poor", and now they are simply the "Overseers".

The move by state lawmakers is apparently clarify that the office is gender neutral. The term Selectman dates back to colonial times and apparently is unique to the New England states. And though women have not been barred from holding the office, Lamoine did not have its first female Selectman until 1988 when Carol Oliver ran for office.

The town's two current female Selectboard members noted at their meeting in October that being referred to as a Selectman didn't particularly bother them, but acknowledged that the change was for the better. The new board name will appear on the town meeting ballot in March.

## Remote Meeting Policy Approved

(Lamoine) - The town's Selectboard, Conservation Commission and Parks Commission have all approved policies that will allow for remote meetings under some circumstances. The Board of Appeals may consider a policy later this month.

When the state of emergency for the Coronavirus Pandemic was declared, the orders from Governor Janet Mills allowed town boards to meet via video conferencing. When that emergency officially ended, so did that ability to hold Zoom meetings, unless a policy was in place.

Each body that meets would have to hold a public hearing and act on a remote meeting policy to be allowed to meet other than in person. So far the Selectboard, and the other two commissions have done so with no public comment at any of the hearings. The Planning Board and Budget Committee declined to adopt a policy. The Appeals Board will decide in January.

Under the approved policy, if a board member is unable to attend a meeting in person, they may request of the board chair to hold the meeting remotely. If that moves forward, the public is given the opportunity to also attend and offer comment remotely.

Lamoine televises most of its meetings, and the public can easily access the telecast via local cable TV or through on-line streaming on the town's website.

## Marlboro Beach Revegetation Begun

*By Larissa Thomas, Chair,  
Lamoine Conservation  
Commission*

(Lamoine) - Knowing how popular and heavily visited Marlboro Beach is, you might already be aware of the changes to the traffic pattern that were made in October. The Lamoine Conservation and Parks Commissions, with the approval of the Select Board, have closed some of the ad hoc driveways across the beach to vehicular traffic to allow revegetation. Helping plants recolonize those areas will protect the beach from erosion, and preserve it as long as possible.

Our efforts to protect Marlboro Beach come as communities across Maine seek ways to grapple with climate change and its local effects. As sea level rises and as storms get stronger over a warming Atlantic, powerful storms at high tide will have the potential to submerge coastal areas that historically have remained dry. Portions of Marlboro Beach already are inundated during the highest tides, and this will become a more regular phenomenon with sea level rise. Beyond the fact that sea level rise and storm events will make flooding a growing problem at Marlboro Beach, strong storms will produce high-energy wave action that presents the greatest risk of coastal erosion. A worst case scenario for Marlboro Beach would be for erosion to gain a toehold somewhere along the spit, allowing future erosion in that spot to accelerate, ultimately severing the landform.

The revegetation project was conceived out of a concern that the current pattern of vehicle traffic across Marlboro Beach poses a risk that makes the landform more vulnerable to erosion in the context of storm events. The risk posed by such storm events will grow over time as sea level rises, and as storms become stronger and more frequent over a warmer ocean. Ad hoc driveways denuded of vegetation



*Look for signs and boulders marking the closed driveways at Marlboro Beach.*

that criss-cross the landform would funnel water across the spit during large storm events, and the loss of root mat in the driveways makes those areas more susceptible to scouring, whereby water flowing across the bare surface removes sediment.

Although current users of Marlboro Beach have grown accustomed to unrestricted vehicle access with several options for travel north-south and east-west across the landform, the current traffic patterns are of relatively recent origin. A review of historic aerial photographs showed very little evidence of vehicle traffic on the vegetated high ground in 1956. Sometime before 1970, when the next historic aerial photograph was taken, it appears that some of the driveways had been created. The full current extent of driveways across the beach dates between 1991 and 2007 based on evidence from aerial imagery during that period. The revegetation project seeks to return to an earlier pattern of vehicle traffic that had a lighter footprint on the beach.

Please respect the new traffic pattern and drive and park only in unrestricted areas, avoiding all plants. Please do not disturb the boulders or signs. Thank you for your cooperation. Let's all help make this project a success so that Marlboro Beach survives for the next generation.

## School Superintendent Will Run Ellsworth

(Lamoine) - Superintendent of Schools Katrina Kane has agreed to serve as the interim superintendent of the Ellsworth School Department following the sudden resignation of Daniel Higgins. Kane will continue as the Lamoine and Hancock Superintendent during the interim period while Ellsworth searches for a permanent replacement for Mr. Higgins who stepped down in mid-December.

Mrs. Kane has been the Lamoine and Hancock Superintendent of Schools ever since those two communities and Ellsworth withdrew from RSU 24. All three school systems share a business office that is based in Ellsworth, and several other services are shared with other school system.

The Mt. Desert Island Regional School System (AOS 91) is also searching for a superintendent, as Lamoine resident Marc Gousse retired from that job effective December 31, 2021.



*Versant's Earth Link Osprey Cam*

## Osprey Cam Now Off Line

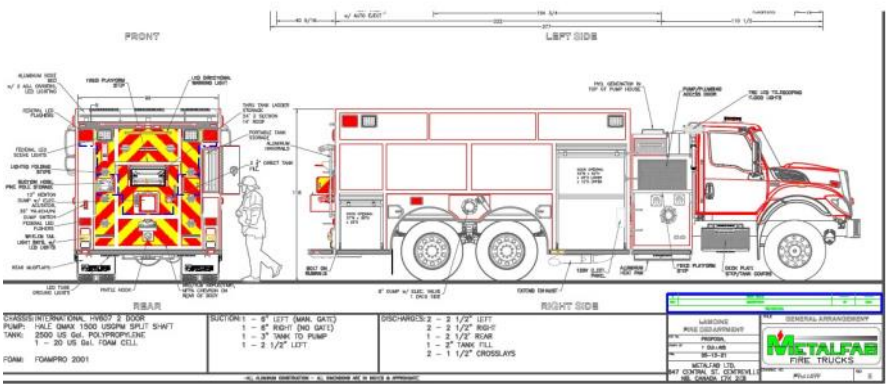
(Lamoine) - We received an e-mail in panic this fall that the Mud Creek Road Earth Link osprey camera showed one of the birds had not migrated south for the winter. Turns out the wildly popular camera has been turned off, and a loop of about 30-seconds long showing an osprey has been playing instead. The giveaway...we looked on a day that it had snowed, and it showed a beautiful sunny day on the creek with green grass. The camera, sponsored by Versant, will go live again when the birds return in the spring of 2022.



## Town Approves New Fire Truck

(Lamoine) - A brand new fire truck will join the Lamoine VFD fleet, replacing a 1994 pumper that will likely be 30-years old when it's retired and sold. A special town meeting approved spending up to \$385,000 for a new pumper/tanker combination in October. The Selectboard and Fire Chief put the chassis and the truck body out to bid following the town meeting. The chassis will be an International 10-wheeled truck, and the body will include a 1,500 gallon per minute pump and a 2,500 gallon tank. The 1994 truck is also an International, but holds less than 1,000 gallons of water and the tank is rated at 1,250 gallons per minute.

Fire trucks are no inexpensive proposition. The bid for the chassis was \$107,000 and the body construction will run at least \$276,945. Fire Chief Skip Smith said the department may add some extra equipment and pay for it through funds raised privately by the department.



It will also be a while before the new truck arrives at the fire station. Colwell Diesel, which won the chassis bid, reports construction on the truck chassis will begin in January 2023. MetalFab, which won the body construction bid, says it'll take a year to construct the fire truck, so the new vehicle may not go into service until mid 2024.

Meanwhile, the town has gone out to bid on a \$300,000 bond to fund the new truck. Local banks have been mailed an invitation to bid which is due on January 6, 2022. The town's capital projects budget has built in a 3% estimated interest rate for 2022/23, though it's hoped the rate will be lower. The bond is payable in annual installments for five years.

## Culvert Replaced on Seal Point Road

(Lamoine) - An alert pedestrian noticed that an area by a Seal Point Road cross culvert seemed to be eroding away quickly and e-mailed the town office in mid November. A check by the road commissioner confirmed that the gravel underneath the pavement was badly undermined, and the road surface was in grave danger of collapsing suddenly. A call to contractor Kelley & Sons Excavating confirmed that the old metal culvert installed during the road rebuild in 1995 had rusted away after 26 years, causing the gravel above it to fall into the structure.

The Kelley crew cut out the old culvert the day after Thanksgiving and replaced it with a new, plastic culvert which should last for decades. The town office notified those who live along the road for whom active e-mail addresses are on file, as well as Lobster 207 which uses the road with heavy trucks to reach their pound at the end of the road. No traffic issues were reported during the project.

Unfortunately the town had not mentioned the issue to plowing contract McMullen Landscaping, and the night after the culvert installation, the first plowable snowfall of the season occurred. When the plow driver hit that section of road, the blade "fetched up hard" on the excavated pavement, bringing the big truck to a sudden stop. Company owner Richard McMullen reported some damage to the

plowing gear, which they were able to repair.

The Kelley crew has placed cold patch on top of the repaired culvert for the winter, and the road cut will be repaired with a permanent patch when the weather warms next spring.



*The trench across Seal Point the day after Thanksgiving to install a new culvert after an old metal culvert rusted away.*  
Randy Kelley Photo

## Dog Licenses Due Now

(Lamoine) - State law requires all dog owners to register their pups with the town clerk annually. Dog licenses expire December 31st each year, but there is a 1-month grace period in January to register. A \$25.00 late fee is required after January 31st. One might ask why dogs need to be registered. There are several reasons, not the least of which is the state law. Another has to do with reuniting found dogs with their owners. For instance, a black lab pup spent the afternoon in the town hall (he was well behaved) when he showed up at the school. He didn't have a registration tag, so staff was not able to track down his owner. Luckily a neighbor knew that Winston had escaped from his yard, and was able to figure out that a school staff member brought him to the town hall to stay warm until Animal Control Officer Debbie Verrill-McFarland could pick him up. His owner showed up after a few hours, and Winston avoided "doggie jail".



*Winston, an "escape artist" from Lamoine Beach Road without a tag*

## CPR Assists, Smoke Calls Among Fire Departments Responses

(Lamoine) - After a relatively slow summer for emergencies, the call volume picked back up for Lamoine's volunteer firefighters for the final quarter of 2021. Though the department is not a first responder agency, ambulance crews requested assistance on four calls, three involving CPR. Two of the patients were revived by firefighters, ambulance workers and a deputy sheriff in one case. A third resident did not survive, and the fourth did not require CPR.

Smoke and odor calls brought firefighters out several times as well. A Lamoine Beach Road tenant called when they spotted black smoke coming from the side of their home, bringing automatic response to town from Ellsworth, Hancock and Trenton. The Lamoine crew arrived first and discovered a furnace malfunction and called off the automatic mutual aid, and turned off power to the furnace, ending the scare. A student returning home from school detected an odor at her house that concerned her. An investigation by firefighters found no fire, and the odor may have been from neighboring properties burning wood.

There were a couple of actual fires. One occurred on Pinkham's Flats when a truck struck a power line entrance to a home, and caused a high voltage surge in a home. That burned up a strip outlet and started a bedroom carpet smoldering. Firefighters immediately turned off the circuit breaker panel. The home owners had pulled the melted strip outlet from the building, and firefighters put out a smoldering carpet spot with a bottle of drinking water to minimize damage.

The other structure fire involved a mobile home off Douglas Highway, which was actually just over the town line in Hancock. The occupant reported smelling what she thought was an electrical fire in the walls. On arrival Ellsworth and Lamoine firefighters removed the trailer skirting and a section of kitchen floor to try to find the smoke source. Hancock and Trenton also assisted. It turned out the smoke was coming from burning clothes in a hamper. The container was placed outside and the clothing put out with an extinguisher.

The department also responded to a pair of motor vehicle accidents, four calls for trees or wires down, and stood by for Hancock's fire department during a call in Gouldsboro.



## Sheriff, Selectboard Discuss Speeding

(Lamoine) - Hancock County Sheriff Scott Kane says he sympathizes with the town's Selectboard when it comes to enforcing the speeding laws. He says the complaints are similar to virtually every other town in the county. Meeting with the Board in early November, Sheriff Kane said setting up radar patrols is nearly impossible, as he searches for enough patrol deputies just to handle active complaints.

The town provided data from its speed monitoring sign that was placed in several locations during the summer of 2021. Some spots showed fairly good compliance with the posted speed limit (Walker Road, Marlboro Beach Road,

Lamoine Beach Road by the school, and Shore Road). Others—not so much. Nearly 90% of the vehicles using Pinkhams Flats were in excess of the posted 45-mile an hour speed limit. One vehicle was clocked a 99-MPH early in the morning. Lamoine Beach Road by Lamoine State Park, which is posted at 40-miles an hour, also saw a very high rate of speeding, confirming verbal complaints from those in the neighborhood.

Kane said he did have some grant money available for speed patrols, and said he would look into using that for a speed enforcement detail in Lamoine in the future, but did not give a specific date.

## Browntail Moth Infestation Identified

*By Kerry Diskin & Larissa Thomas,  
Lamoine Conservation Commission*

(Lamoine) - The Lamoine Conservation Commission identified browntail moth infestation along Seal Point Road earlier this year, a discovery that was confirmed by the Maine Forest Service. The browntail moth is an invasive species that has been spreading along the coast of Maine. It is a concern to human health, because as the caterpillars molt throughout the spring and summer, poisonous barbed hairs are released. Exposure to these hairs may result in a poison ivy-like rash and respiratory problems if inhaled.

The caterpillars are active in the spring. Browntail moths overwinter in three-to-four-inch webbed nests comprised of dead leaves and silk. The nests are suspended from the tips of branches of oak, apple, birch, and other hardwoods and shrubs. The best time to remove the nests is in the winter. Nests may be pruned out of trees and dropped into a bucket of soapy water. Gloves are recommended to avoid exposure.

The Conservation Commission has organized a browntail moth rapid response team to fight the scourge of this invasive pest. In December, a Conservation Commission member removed several winter webs along Seal Point Road. It is possible, even likely, that browntail moths are or will be present elsewhere in town. It is important for everyone to be on the

lookout for caterpillars, moths, and their webs, and to eliminate them as soon as possible to prevent the spread of a pest that presents a serious health nuisance and which can impact the health of host trees. The Conservation Commission stands ready to assist Lamoine residents with questions about browntail moths.

The Conservation Commission



*Browntail moth winter web along Seal Point Road before removal by Conservation Commission.*

will continue to monitor the known locations of infestation along Seal Point Road, with a goal of stamping out the invaders. Be vigilant in your own neighborhood for signs of browntail moth. Let's pull together and beat this pest.

## Hazardous Waste Collection Down

(Lamoine) - The annual hazardous waste collection by the Acadia Disposal District saw a reduction in the amount of waste brought for special disposal. Lamoine residents brought 34 units of hazardous waste. A unit was 5 gallons or 20-pounds of materials that cannot be disposed of with normal household trash or recycling.

The overall collection at the Tremont Town Office was down about 100-units from 2020. Lamoine's share of the costs fell from just over \$1,500 to just over \$1,100.

The League of Towns, of which Lamoine is a member, annually assists with the set up cost for the Household Hazardous Waste collection which had to be moved from MDI High School to Tremont.

## Transfer Station Crew Checks Permit Stickers

(Lamoine) - The gentlemen who make sure the Lamoine Transfer Station operates smoothly conducted permit sticker checks for several weeks in the fall, and a number of residents came into the office to obtain the sticker that allows access to trash disposal at the facility. Stickers do not cost anything for residents. Non-residential trash disposal is not allowed.

Facility manager Chris Meyer did confront one user who appeared to be bringing in multiple loads of trash. It turns out the truck owner is a company that cleans out short term rental properties on a weekly basis who had not paid the annual commercial fee of \$25.00 and provided a list of serviced addresses to the town. They have since obtained the commercial disposal permission.

The reason for the sticker check is to confirm that only recycling and household trash from Lamoine is coming to the transfer station. In the past, some non-residents have tried to use Lamoine's facility to avoid having to pay for disposal in their home town. It costs our town money to dispose of waste, and taxpayers fund those costs. Non residents who are generating trash are in a sense committing theft of services.

## Lamoine Trash Still with PERC

(Lamoine) - After a few weeks where all trash deliveries to the Penobscot Energy Recovery Company (PERC) had to be diverted to an Old Town landfill, Lamoine's trash is once again being converted to electricity at the incinerator in Orrington. PERC had to install some substantial machinery at the plant when communities that had switched to the Coastal Resources (Fiberright) plant in Hampden saw that facility close less than a year after opening. Those towns and cities were forced to send their solid waste to a landfill or divert them to PERC, which created a larger volume than the incinerator was prepared to handle.

The Municipal Review Committee (MRC) towns are still without a plant as the Fiberright facility remains closed and up for sale. The MRC has been working with the bond holding company or Fiberright to pick a buyer in hopes of reopening the plant that would convert solid waste to a biofuel. No timetable has been given for a sale or restarting the plant.

Meanwhile the town has seen the amount of waste shipped to the PERC plant increase significantly over 2020. Through mid-December, Lamoine had shipped roughly 40-tons more of trash to PERC compared to a year ago, or an increase of 6.54%.

Lamoine's single-sort recycling program has seen numbers stay steady. Through November, the town had sent 65.1 tons of recyclables to ecomaine. In 2020, that figure was 64.22 tons of recycling.



*A storm washed out the outlet side of the twin culverts on Needles Eye Road when four inches of rain hit Lamoine in a little less than two hours at the end of October. The crew from McMullen Landscape fixed it quickly.*



## Time Capsules Stored

(Lamoine) - When the next generation of Lamoine leaders celebrate the town's 175th birthday in the year 2045, they can thank the group that planned the 150th event for not burying a pair of time capsules in the ground. The two vessels, which are very shiny and engraved with the words "Time Capsule" now sit in the vault at the town hall, inside the two drawer fireproof (and very heavy) safe. Also inside the drawer are the crescent and Allen wrenches that were used to seal the capsules.

The time capsule from the 125th anniversary celebration was buried on the lawn by the Veterans' Memorial in 1995, about 13-years before the Memorial was built. Detailed directions led the 150! Committee to the exact spot of burial, but years of rain and dirt surrounding the PVC pipe made the artifacts inside a little wet, and the few photos that were included did not survive.

There are all sorts of items in the 2021 time capsule for the future group to explore when the time comes. In contrast to a floppy disc (who remembers those!), a modern thumb drive with computer files is inside. There are coins, a stamp, some



*The official Lamoine 150! Time Capsules sit inside a drawer in the fireproof cabinet inside the vault at the Lamoine Town Hall*

documents about the town's 150th year and celebration, and some predictions, hopes and wishes for the future of Lamoine. A listing of the time capsule contents is posted on the town's Lamoine 150! web page.

## Blunt's Pond Skate Party Planned

(Lamoine) - Lamoine's Parks Commission is planning a skating party at Bloomfield Park (weather & ice permitting) on Saturday, February 5, 2022 from 10AM to 1PM. If it storms, the makeup date is Sunday the 6th. The Commission and others will provide cocoa and wrapped snacks.

The park is located on Blunt's Pond, accessible from Asa's Lane. When it's well frozen and clear of snow, it provides fantastic ice skating opportunities. The town's web and Facebook pages will provide more information as the time draws closer.

## On Line Burn Permits Now Free

(Lamoine) - The State of Maine is now offering free, one-day burning permits through it's on-line portal. A link to the permit page is on the town's website.

Permits used to cost \$7.00, but the Maine Legislature reduced the cost to free. Permits are good for one day and come with some time and burning condition limitations.

Once a resident obtains a burn permit, e-mail is sent to Fire Chief Skip Smith, Deputy Fire Warden Stu Marckoon, and the Town Hall to make sure the fire department is aware of the permit's issuance in case there are calls. Permits are required for all open burning except for cooking or warming fires. Those burning are responsible for doing

so safely and not burning when fire danger is greater than moderate. Permits are still available at the town hall.

## Monster Mash Dash A Hit

(Lamoine) - A fund raising one-mile race geared toward young runners proved to be a big hit on Halloween weekend. Dubbed the Monster Mash Dash, the Lamoine Recreation Committee sponsored the race that came together quickly as a fund raiser for a committee member whose home burned a few weeks before the race.

The Rec Committee gathered sponsors, got T-shirts printed and had dozens of entrants in the fun race. A little later in the day, the Hancock County SPCA held a 5K race that originated at Marlboro Beach to raise funds for that facility.



*Open Mic at the Lamoine/Bayside Grange December 18th, treated a great crowd to local talent; many regulars and some new folk on the stage and in the audience. The theme was "The Roaring Twenties". The audience enjoyed the music of "Polly and Doc" as they paid tribute to Bessie Smith. Lamoine Community Arts next "Open Mic" is scheduled for March 19, 2022.*

## School, Fire Station Well Lit for Holidays

(Lamoine) - The Thanksgiving week break for students at the Lamoine Consolidated School saw the staff swing into action, armed with staple guns, and with assistance from the fire department and it's ladder truck (below, top picture), lighting up the grounds for the holiday season. Principal Dawn McPhail, who also produced an elaborate stage production performed outdoors in mid-December, led the lighting scheme for the school property, adding more lights, trees in heavy bases, and inflatable characters. The firefighting crew helped reach the high peak on the gymnasium, and to string hundreds of additional lights in the large maple tree in front of the school building.

The display has attracted a lot of motorists to town to see the finished product which goes on at dusk and is turned off when the night custodian is done for the day.

The fire department put up red LED lights around the apparatus bay doors and strung white LEDs on the roof's edge on the front of the building a few days later. Those also go on at dusk and are on an automatic timer for six hours.



## Grange Distributes Dictionaries

(Lamoine) - This fall Lamoine / Bayside Grange members Kathy McGlinchey and Carol Duffy presented dictionaries with a reference guide to Lamoine School third and fourth graders as part of the National Grange's Dictionary Project. In addition to looking up a few interesting words, the students also explored the reference section. They were intrigued with the information about space and the longest word in our language. By the way, that word is pneumonoultramicroscopicsilicovolcanoconiosis (it's a disease).



# January 2022—Lamoine Schedule

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
The monthly Planning Board Meeting for January has been canceled, as there is no business to transact.						1-Transfer Station Closed
2	3-Transfer Station Open 8-5	4	5—8AM Board of Assessors	6-7PM Selectboard	7-Nomination Papers Due	8
9	10—6:30 PM Board of Appeals	11	12—7PM Conservation Cmsn.	13	14	15
16	17-Town Hall Closed, MLK Jr. Day	18	19	20-7PM Selectboard	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

# February 2022-Lamoine Schedule

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2-8AM Board of Assessors	3-7PM Selectboard	4	5-Blunt’s Pond Skating even 10-1
6	7-7PM Planning Board	8	9-7PM Conservation Cmsn.	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17-7PM Selectboard	18	19
20	21-Town Hall Closed (President’s Day)	22	23	24	25	26
27	28					

# March 2022—Lamoine Schedule

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3-7PM Selectboard	4	5
6	7-7PM Planning Board	8-8am to 8pm Municipal Election	9-7PM Conservation Cmsn.	10	11	12
13	14	15	16-6PM Open Town Meeting	17-7PM Selectboard	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31-Selectboard signs warrant		

The Lamoine Quarterly  
January 2022

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- Boston Post Cane Awarded

Subdivision Approved

Planning Board Idle

Assessors may Disband

Town Meeting March 16

Beach Re-vegetation

Fire Truck Approved

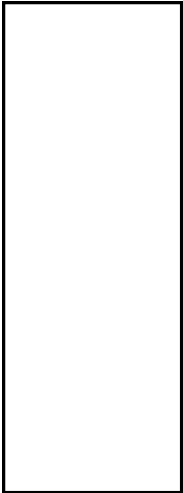
Dog Licenses Due

Browntail Moths Here

Skate Party Planned

Time Capsules Filled

And Much, Much More!



Town of Lamoine  
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